

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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## Your Destiny

By Walter E. Myer

SEVERAL years ago a group of high school students were asked the question: "What do you want of life?" Each student told what he most wanted to have during his lifetime. The answers were summarized and reported, in the form of a chart which appeared in a book entitled "Designs for Personality" by Margaret E. Bennett and Harold C. Hand. (McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, \$1.36)

The goals or "life values" of the students are listed in the chart and the per cent of students choosing each of the life values is reported. For example, the chart shows that 81 per cent of the group wanted "a happy home life" more than anything else.

Here are other things which were wanted, with the percent of students desiring each:

Success in a suitable or desired vocation, 66 per cent; sufficient income for comfort, 53 per cent; friendships, 44 per cent; happiness, 38 per cent; sufficient education to enjoy the finer things of life, 31 per cent; service to others, 22 per cent; recognition by others, 16 per cent; amusement, 13 per cent; travel, 13 per cent; wealth, 9 per cent.

After presenting the chart outlining a number of the things which students want, the authors of "Designs for Personality" take up the question of how one may get what he wants. They discuss in detail what one may best do to insure a happy home life, and they advise concerning means of achieving other goals. The book was written several years ago but it is as useful as when it first appeared.

Each student would do well to think very carefully about his life objectives. Then he should study with equal care what he needs to do in order to get what he wants most out of life. One can usually find the road to happiness and success if he first decides what he wants and then works intelligently and systematically to reach his goals.

One can, for example, have a happy home life if he follows habits of cooperation, unselfishness, helpfulness, good humor; if he has consideration for others and, in general, carries his own weight in the boat.

One may have friends by being friendly and loyal. He may be assured of vocational success by being honest and dependable and by acquiring skill at his job. He may become popular by practicing fair play and good manners, and by making himself competent and useful.

No one's future is wholly in his own hands. War, illness and other hazards may interfere with the best laid plans. But within broad limits one is the architect of his own destiny. Success does not come without effort of course, or without thoughtful planning. It comes to the person who knows what he wants; who understands the costs in effort and sacrifice which successful living requires; and who is willing to pay the price.



Walter E. Myer



ACME  
TWO COAL MINERS, typical of the thousands upon whom most of the nation depends for its fuel

## Coal Problems Today

Contracts Trouble Industry Now and Long-Range Difficulties  
Also Plague Miners and Mine Operators

In recent weeks, the coal controversy has taken some complicated twists. Various phases of the situation have come before the federal courts, and the National Labor Relations Board and other government agencies have become involved in the dispute. The average citizen can hardly be blamed if he becomes confused about the whole business.

Basically, though, it is not as complicated as it seems. What it boils down to is a dispute between John L. Lewis and his United Mine Workers, on the one hand, and the coal-mine operators, on the other. The dispute is over the terms of a new contract. The old contract ran out last June.

Mr. Lewis wants a wage increase of 95 cents a day for the miners and an increase of 15 cents a ton to be paid by the mine operators into the welfare fund. The latter fund is used to pay pensions and other benefits to the miners.

The operators oppose Lewis' demands. They say that they are paying out all they can afford. They think that the present basic wage of \$14.05 for an eight-hour day for the miner is fair as are the present welfare payments of 20 cents for each ton of coal

mined. The operators want, too, to curtail Mr. Lewis' control of the welfare fund.

In the last 10 years, John L. Lewis, who has long been known as an ingenious bargainer, has called 17 strikes in the coal industry to win his demands. These strikes have not always been successful, but more often than not Lewis has got substantially what he wanted. This time, though, he has not used the strike as his principal weapon. Instead he has resorted to the three-day work-week.

Under this device, the miners have been working only on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday each week. Most of the mines have been on this schedule the greater part of the time since last July. Through the three-day week, the coal output has been lowered so that it is not keeping up with consumption. Thus, users of coal have had to draw on their stockpiles. In some cases, these stockpiles have been entirely used up.

Through the three-day week, Lewis—it is felt—has kept a constant pressure on the operators to give in to his demands. (Those few operators who have given in have promptly gone back

(Concluded on page 2)

## Spain Is Facing An Emergency

Food Shortage Looms in Nation That Has Been Excluded From Marshall Plan

SPAIN, although she is principally an agricultural country, faces a severe grain shortage. During the next few months she wants to buy half a million tons of wheat, corn, and rye from abroad. She has offered to purchase grain from "any country whatsoever," and to make payment in American dollars. Reports indicate that some of the money for this purpose is being obtained through a loan from a New York bank.

There are several reasons for the Spanish food emergency. Foremost is a drought that has lasted several years and has greatly reduced crop yields. Another is a shortage of farm machinery and fertilizer. In addition, Spain is having an economic dispute with Argentina, the country that has supplied her with large amounts of wheat in the past. The South American nation recently refused to make further sales until Spain starts clearing up her indebtedness to the Argentine government.

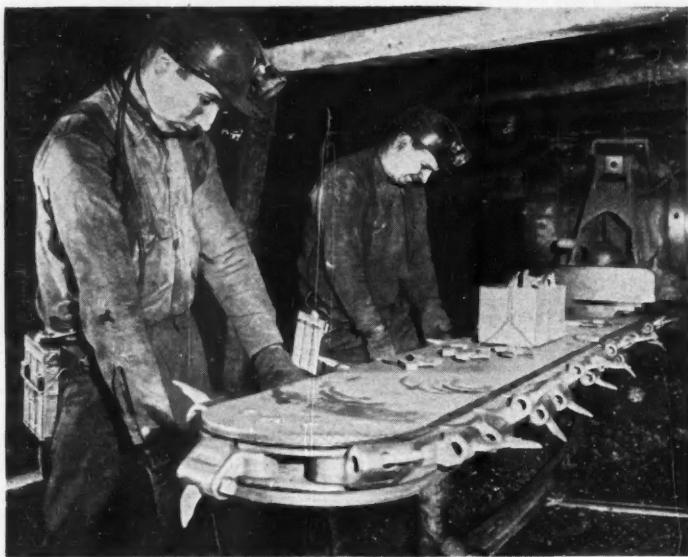
For Spain, the grain shortage is only one difficulty among many. She has never had much opportunity to recover from the effects of her destructive civil war, which occurred in the late 1930's. The drought, moreover, has damaged her industries by reducing the amount of river water available for generating electric power. Normally she depends on rivers and streams for about 75 per cent of her electricity. When these are dry, or at least very low, some factories are unable to work on a full-time basis.

Spain has long been a comparatively poor country. In many rural sections, for instance, her transportation has never advanced beyond the ox-cart stage. Although some Spanish farmers own small plots of ground, most of them work on estates that belong

(Concluded on page 6)



WIDE WORLD  
FRANCISCO FRANCO, ruler of Spain



A COAL-CUTTING MACHINE that makes mining easier, faster, and safer

## Nation's Coal Crisis

(Concluded from page 1)

to full-time operation of their mines.) At the same time, the three-day week—it is believed—has kept the miners from becoming as dissatisfied as they might have been if they had gone on strike and had thus been deprived of all income.

During the past few weeks the dispute has become very serious. One reason for this is that many users of coal are now feeling the "pinch" for the first time. Any falling-off in coal supplies is keenly felt at this time of year, for the United States annually burns up 40 per cent of its total consumption of coal during the four months from December through March.

Just how much the nation's stockpiles have been lowered has been a point of controversy. There have been shortages in many areas, and earlier this month some congressmen claimed the stockpiles were the lowest in 15 years. On the other hand, a government official said that the dealers' stockpiles were higher at the beginning of January than on several occasions last year.

One of the most confusing developments in the dispute came about the middle of January when thousands of coal miners walked out of the pits, and demanded a five-day work-week. Most of them ignored the "suggestion" of their leader, John L. Lewis, that they return to work.

### Was It Revolt?

Some observers thought that the miners were revolting against Lewis, who had ordered the three-day week for them. Others thought, however, that Lewis did not intend that his "suggestion" be taken seriously, and contended that the miners actually had Lewis' secret approval in their walkout.

Whatever the reason for the walkout, it resulted in more demands for action by the federal government. Legal action is now going on, but it is impossible at this time to say whether or not it will settle the controversy.

Even if the present dispute is brought to an end soon, certain serious problems of a long-range nature will continue to face the coal industry. One of these is the overproduction of

coal, a problem which has been at the root of many of our coal disputes.

In face of the present shortages, it may seem strange to talk of overproduction. However, there are signs that it will be a very real threat when the mines are open and all the miners are working. The invention of improved labor-saving machinery, for example, is making it possible for miners to put out more coal than ever before. Under "normal" employment conditions, there is no doubt that far more coal can be produced than can be used.

In the years before the war, overproduction was one of the most serious problems facing the coal industry. Huge surpluses appeared, and companies were forced to cut prices and discharge workers. The whole industry—both miners and operators—suffered extreme hardship.

### Solution Required

This problem will unquestionably have to be solved if the coal industry is to remain healthy and give a "square deal" to the operator, the miner, and the consumer.

Another vital problem is raised by the declining use of coal as a fuel. In recent years it has been losing out in competition with other fuels. Increasing numbers of new homes are depending on oil and gas—rather than coal—for heating.

The use of coal has also been declining on the railroads, which, for many years, were the coal companies' best customers.

Coal is, to be sure, supplying about

50 per cent of the energy in the United States, but the total represents no more than it was supplying in 1918. While coal has been standing still, water power has doubled and the use of oil and gas as the suppliers of energy have increased five times.

Why is the coal industry losing many of its markets? One reason is that other types of fuel, for many purposes, cost less than coal. The price of coal has more than doubled in the last decade. On the railroads, for example, oil-burning Diesels are more economical than coal-burning locomotives. And they are cleaner, too.

Another reason is that many former users of coal have concluded that they cannot rely on getting it when they need it. They remember only too well that the coal industry has had 17 strikes since 1940—more than in any other industry.

Critics of John L. Lewis contend that his "short-sighted tactics" have brought on the present plight of the coal industry. His ever-increasing wage demands—they say—have been the principal reason why coal prices have risen to such a high level, and the frequent strikes which he has called have caused many former coal users to turn to gas or oil. If Lewis continues these policies—it is said—the demand for coal will fall off even more and consequently there will be less and less employment for the men in the mines.

Lewis' supporters say this is not a true picture. They insist that coal companies are selling all they can produce, that their profits are very high, and that the companies can absorb increased wage-costs by reducing their profits rather than by increasing their prices. They point out that Lewis has greatly bettered the lot of the miners who, in 1939, had an average income of only \$23 a week and barely eked out a living.

Even though the demand for coal is dropping in some quarters, it is felt by many observers that the long-term outlook may not be as black as is sometimes painted. For example, the use of coal by electric-power companies is on the rise. Many new power plants are scheduled to be built in the next five years, and most of them will burn coal.

Coal is still the big fuel in the steel mills, too. Tremendous quantities are consumed in the blast furnaces and coke ovens. With the demand for steel high, the coal business will probably have a steady customer here for a long time to come.

A number of new experiments are now going on which, if successful, will mean new uses for coal. For example, certain large coal companies and railroads are working on a new type of locomotive that would be fired with coal. Also, good progress is being made in perfecting methods of manu-

facturing oil and other synthetic fuels from coal.

Probably the most interesting experiment of all concerning coal is being carried out in Alabama. There the government and private power companies are working on ways to "gasify" coal right in the mine. They hope to devise ways to burn coal in the ground, without mining it, to produce gas, thus, the expensive costs of mining would be eliminated, and it would be possible to make use of thin seams of coal which are too small to be worked commercially at present.

### Huge Quantities

In judging the part that coal will play in the nation's life in the future, the most important fact probably is this: The United States has tremendous quantities of coal—enough to last for centuries. In all, we have nearly half of the world's known coal reserves.

Consequently, we will have vast supplies of coal left even after our supplies of oil and natural gas have been exhausted. Even though the outlook for the coal industry may not be too good at this time, the prospects may become brighter as science finds new ways of using the mineral.

### Your Vocabulary

*Italicized words below appeared recently in the Rotarian. Match each with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are given on page 5, column 3.*

1. If an event is *inevitable* (in-év'-tuh-bl), it is (a) fortunate (b) unfortunate (c) easily prevented (d) bound to happen.

2. If a person is known for his *integrity* (in-tég'-ri-ti), he is (a) a good athlete (b) honest (c) skilled as a mathematician (d) unintelligent.

3. An *eminent* (ém'-i-nént) doctor is (a) inexperienced (b) mediocre (c) extremely busy (d) distinguished.

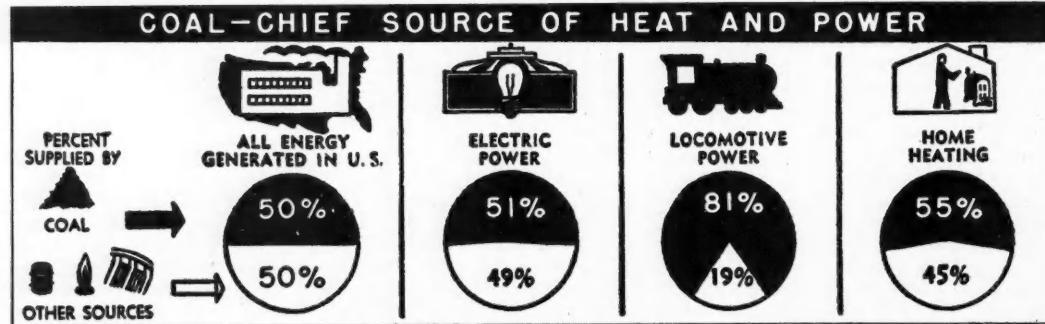
4. He has a great deal of *fortitude* (for-tü-tüd). (a) courage (b) money (c) trouble (d) ability.

5. A *secluded* (sē-kloōd'ed) spot is (a) crowded (b) dangerous (c) isolated (d) easy to reach.

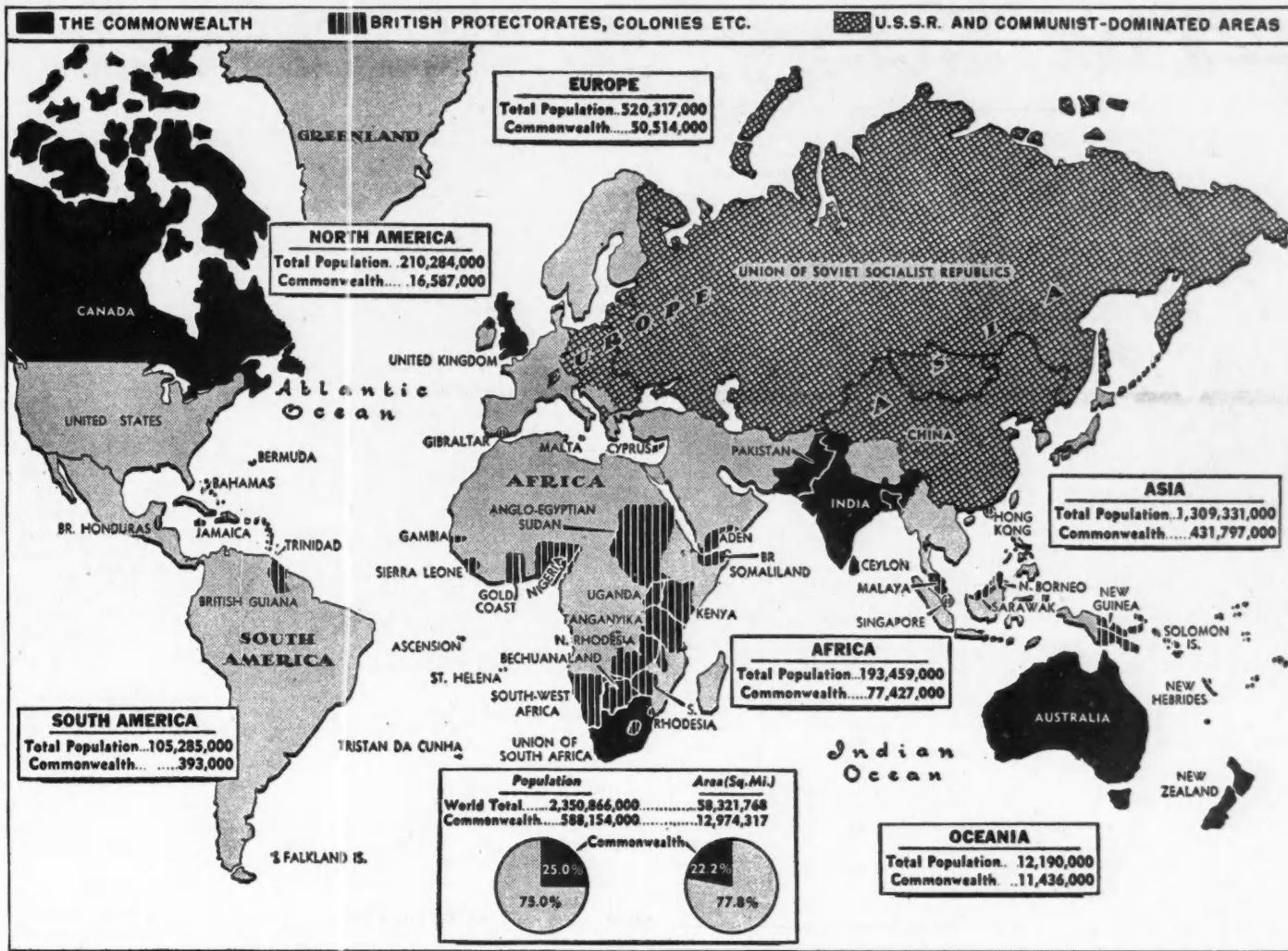
6. They are *contemplating* (kōn-tēm-plāt-ing) the purchase of a new building. (a) studiously considering (b) trying to avoid (c) not planning (d) postponing.

7. If a bad situation is *ameliorated* (ah-mēl'yō-rāt-ed), it is (a) made worse (b) ignored (c) made better (d) discussed.

8. The work was *impeded* (im-pēd'ed). (a) completed (b) hindered (c) wasted (d) speeded.



THE IMPORTANCE OF COAL in the daily life of our nation



THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS, with the colonies and territories under its control, reaches around the world

NEW YORK TIMES

## Commonwealth Plans Peaceful "War" on Communism

ON the tropical isle of Ceylon, off the coast of India, the foreign ministers of 8 nations met this month to plan a fight against communism in Asia. Worried by China's fall, they want to keep communism from spreading further.

The 8 countries represented in the anti-Communist meeting were Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan and Ceylon. They make up the Commonwealth (or family) of Nations. Each is fully independent and self-governing. But the 8 are linked in a family relationship by the symbol of a King—King George VI of England.

With its colonies, and the areas under its protection, this powerful family of nations covers about one fifth of the world's land. The population, over 500 million, is about a fourth of that of the world. One of the self-governing colonies, Southern Rhodesia, was represented at Ceylon.

### Best Way to Fight

The Commonwealth foreign ministers, and their finance ministers, agreed that the best way to fight communism is to raise the level of living for the peoples of Asia. Millions are underfed, existing at near starvation levels. Communism will lose its appeal, it was felt at Ceylon, if a better, healthier way of life can be provided.

Three main goals were, therefore, decided upon: (1) As fast as possible, to provide more consumer goods—food, clothing, medicines—for India, Paki-

stan and Ceylon; (2) to help these countries increase their own production of food and consumer goods; (3) then to help them build prosperity by the development of big industries for the production of steel and chemicals, for instance.

The foreign ministers hope to extend this program to include non-Communist nations of Asia who are outside the Commonwealth family. Indonesia, Indo-China, Thailand, and Burma are among those countries.

Plans laid at Ceylon now go back to the governments of the 8 nations for approval. A second conference will be held this spring, in Australia, to work out details. An administrative commission is to be set up in Canberra, Australia's capital. Since the program follows President Truman's Point 4 proposal for aiding underdeveloped lands, Foreign Minister Bevin of Great Britain hopes for U. S. participation.

There was discussion at Ceylon of increasing troop strength in Asia, and some talk of a Pacific military pact—like the Atlantic defense pact against communism in Europe. The military question may be taken up later, in consultation with the United States.

The holding of this Commonwealth conference is, in many ways, an important historical development. In the past, such conferences met in London, and symbolized Great Britain's superior position as head of the Commonwealth. The meeting in Ceylon is visible evidence of the change—a sign that all the Commonwealth nations are

on an equal basis with Britain in reaching common decisions.

It is surprising, furthermore, that these 8 nations could get together, for they are in frequent disagreement with each other. India still is bitter against Britain, because of the generations of direct rule by the British. India and Pakistan are at odds on economic policy. They are in dispute, too, over the territory of Kashmir—which India now holds and Pakistan claims.

### Outside Asia

Canada considers herself a part of the American world. New Zealand lives near Asia, while being intellectually allied with Europe. Yet, in Ceylon, differences in views were put aside.

There are 4 reasons for this. First, as we have already noted, the 8 nations are linked together by a King. Though the King has no governing power, he is a symbol of the relationship. Second, the 8 governments have developed along similar lines, after the British pattern. So there is a traditional tie among their democracies.

Third, the countries' finances have been linked to the British unit of money, the pound, for centuries. And, since World War II, they have pooled dollar resources in London and shared them by common agreement. Fourth, the governments of the 8 nations are anti-Communist. Together, they have considerable power. Alone, they might be easy victims of Communist attacks.

How the Commonwealth came about

is, by itself, a fascinating story. It begins with the development of England as a great power. In the 15th century this seafaring nation—in rivalry with France, Spain, Portugal and Holland—began a race for territory. England built a vast empire and ruled it with a firm hand.

Gradually, however, the peoples under England sought independence, and the larger areas won complete political freedom. Yet they remained within the British family.

*Great Britain*, which includes England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, was the island base for the development of empire. *Canada* was the first of the great units to leave the Empire and become a dominion. It gained its real independence in 1867. *Australia* was made a dominion in 1901; *New Zealand* in 1907, and the *Union of South Africa* in 1910.

*India* and *Pakistan* won their independence only in 1947 after a bitter struggle. The island of Ceylon, 12 miles off the coast of the Indian mainland, gained dominion status in 1948. (Burma, with 18 million people, is the only Indian territory that refused to stay within the Commonwealth.)

Britain still has colonies around the world, but certain of these are largely self-governing. So, it can be said quite truly, the British Empire is vanishing. What remains, for the most part, is the Commonwealth of Nations—led by the 8 nations who participate as equals in reaching common decisions, as was done this month in Ceylon.

# The Story of the Week



**PRESIDENT TRUMAN AND HIS CABINET** started the new year with a new picture. From the left, around the table, are: Oscar Chapman, Secretary of Interior; Charles Sawyer, Secretary of Commerce; Alben Barkley, Vice President; Maurice Tobin, Secretary of Labor; Charles Brannan, Secretary of Agriculture; Jesse Donaldson, Postmaster General; Louis Johnson, Secretary of Defense; Dean Acheson, Secretary of State; Mr. Truman; John Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury; J. Howard McGrath, Attorney General.

## Russia and the UN

Will Russia remain away from the UN until Nationalist China has been expelled from the world organization and its place has been taken by representatives of the Communist government in Peiping? In recent weeks, Soviet delegates have walked out of meetings of the Security Council and other UN bodies, stating that they could not take part in the discussions while Chinese Nationalist representatives were present.

Most observers, however, doubt whether Russia will quit the UN permanently. They believe that the Soviet government has more to gain than to lose by remaining a member of the international body and using its meetings to influence world opinion.

They also believe that the Chinese Nationalists will eventually be forced to give up their membership in the UN. Five nations on the Security Council have already recognized Communist China and several others may do the same in the near future. A majority of seven is needed to expel a member from the UN.

Several countries quit the League of Nations when that organization was in existence. Germany, Italy and Japan withdrew when they felt that continued membership was restricting their plans for aggressive warfare. Russia did not withdraw, but it was expelled because of her invasion of Finland in 1939.

## Rift with Bulgaria

As we go to press, the United States is having strained relations with Bulgaria, one of the European nations under Soviet control. The American minister to Bulgaria is accused by the Communist government there of having worked with "spies and traitors." It is demanded that he be replaced by someone else.

Our government brands this charge as ridiculous, and warns Bulgaria that if it insists on sending our minister home, we shall break off all diplomatic

relations with that country. Bulgaria's decision, as well as our own, may be known before this paper reaches its readers.

The reason for our government's strong stand on this issue is that Bulgaria, like other Soviet satellite nations, has been making a series of false charges against our diplomats.

## National Press Club

The National Press Club—the organization to which most Washington correspondents belong—figured prominently in the news recently. Secretary of State Dean Acheson, who wanted to explain the Administration's policy on Formosa, took the occasion to do so in an address at the club's headquarters in the heart of the capital.

Acheson's words were printed in newspapers throughout the country and so was the club's name. Most of the stories coming out of Washington told of the large audience that heard Acheson's speech and of the large num-

ber of cabinet officers, lawmakers, and other guests attending the affair.

The National Press Club has been used as a national "soundboard" quite frequently. Candidates for public office have addressed luncheon gatherings at the club's auditorium in order to set forth their views on important issues. Foreign ambassadors have spoken before the club on the policies of their governments. Government officials have appeared there to clear up public misunderstandings.

The National Press Club was formed in 1908. Besides newspaper reporters, it includes men who gather and write news for radio stations, wire services and magazines. By a long-standing but controversial rule, women reporters are barred from membership.

## "Price Tag" Committee

Representative Joseph Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts, Republican leader of the House, has appointed a special "price tag" committee to determine

the cost of all legislation introduced in that body. The committee consists of 21 Republican Representatives. It will make a report on its findings at regular intervals.

Many people have praised the formation of the price tag group. They point out that the budget deficit for this year will be about four billion dollars and that the deficit for next year is expected to be about five billion. A price tag committee, they argue, will help Congress keep appropriations to a minimum and will enable the public to determine what bills to support.

Other persons are skeptical about the newly established group. They say that it is a good idea to publicize what the various bills introduced in Congress will cost, but that an impartial group, rather than a single political party, should do the job. It is argued that the Republican committee will be more inclined to stress the high cost of Democratic proposals than those made by Republicans.

## The Saar Question

France and the West German Republic are involved in a dispute over the Saar. This rich industrial region belonged to Germany before the last war, but was taken from it at the end of the conflict. Under an Allied agreement signed in 1946, the people of the Saar elect their own parliament and prime minister but their industrial production is controlled by France. France also has the right to lease the territory's important coal mines and it is presently proposing such a lease in discussions with Saar officials.

The West German government is opposed to France's influence over the Saar's economy and is especially upset over its plan to take over the territory's coal mines. West Germans argue that most of the people of the Saar are Germans and, therefore, would like to be reunited with the mother country.

The French, on the other hand, assert that the Saar has shown during the last few years that it wishes to



**THERE'S SNOW** but it's not cold outside at Aspen, Colorado. Wind breaks around the pool, heated water, and the warm sun make swimming as comfortable in winter as in summer. The snow-covered Aspen mountains in the background will be the site of world ski championship contests during February.

retain its present semi-independent status under French supervision. They also assert that the final settlement of all questions relating to the Saar will be made at the time a peace treaty is drawn up for Germany. In the meantime, the French say, they will continue their present relations with the territory.

### Hydrogen Bomb?

Should the United States build a hydrogen bomb which, it is said, would be 100 to 1000 times as destructive as a bomb made of uranium or plutonium? According to reports, this question is being considered by President Truman and his advisers. There is, presumably, no special date by which a decision must be reached, but a conclusion may come soon.

Some members of the Atomic Energy Commission are reported to be opposed to the building of a hydrogen bomb until we have made one last effort to reach an agreement with Russia on the international control of all weapons of mass destruction.

A number of military leaders disagree with this point of view. They argue that even if we signed an agreement with Russia, there would be no guarantee that she would keep her word. Furthermore, they said, Russia may be working on a hydrogen bomb herself right now. Consequently, the U. S. should begin immediate production of this weapon and continue our present policy of trying to reach a settlement with Russia through the UN and normal diplomatic channels.

### Rules Committee

The Rules Committee of the U. S. House of Representatives, at one time, had great power in deciding which bills could be acted upon by the lower house of Congress and which ones could not. Gradually, however, steps were taken to strip the Rules Committee of some of its authority. Early last year, an arrangement was made in which it would be possible to force this



"MONTANA" is a fast-moving cinema starring Alexis Smith and Errol Flynn

Committee to discharge a bill *after a 21-day period if the majority of members present in the House favored such action.*

When Congress met last month, the attempt was made by certain Democrats to restore the former power of the Rules Committee.

The fight was led mainly by Southern Democrats who hope to defeat President Truman's "civil rights" proposals. These lawmakers are afraid that if the Truman measures are voted upon by the House, they may win majority approval. Since the Southerners are well represented on the Rules Committee, they wanted to strengthen its authority so that it could keep the "undesired" bills from coming to a vote on the floor of the House.

Their plan was defeated, however, and it is still possible for a bill to be forced out of the Rules Committee by a majority vote of the House members. The way in which this is done gives the Speaker a great deal of power, for he may "recognize" or refuse to recog-

nize the member of Congress who asks for a vote on a bill being "pocketed" by the Rules Committee.

Since Speaker Rayburn is a strong supporter of President Truman, it is generally felt that he will not try to block action on any of the President's measures, even though he may oppose some of the proposals.

### Good Western

The fight between our sheepherders and cattle ranchers for the grazing lands of the West is told in an exciting fashion in "Montana," a technicolor movie produced by Warner Brothers. The stars of the movie are Errol Flynn and Alexis Smith, who start out on opposite sides of the dispute but eventually see each other's point of view. Other members in the cast are S. Z. Sakall, Douglas Kennedy, James Brown, and Ian MacDonald.

In the picture, Errol Flynn is the leader of a group of sheepherders who would like to settle in Montana. They are warned not to do so by Alexis Smith, who is a big cattle rancher in the state and has been chosen by the other ranchers to represent them in the controversy. Hard feelings are aroused because of the dispute.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

The owner of the plant addressed the new worker.  
"I suppose the foreman told you what to do?"  
"Yes, sir, he said to wake him up when I saw you coming."

Two horses were gossiping before the Kentucky Derby.  
"I'm going to win," said one.  
"How do you know?"  
"Because if I do, my master has promised to give me two extra bales of hay—and that ain't money."



Celebrity: "Do I have the pleasant expression you require?"  
Photographer: "Yes."

Celebrity: "Well take the picture quickly, it's hurting my face."

Magician (to small child whom he calls to the platform): "Now, little boy, you have never seen me before, have you?"  
Child: "No, daddy."

Customer: "Do you have the same razor you used on me yesterday?"  
Barber: "Yes, sir."  
Customer: "Then give me gas, please."

"He cleaned up a fortune with crooked dough."  
"A gangster?"  
"No, a pretzel manufacturer."

Hotel Manager: "We can give you a room but you'll have to make your own bed."  
Customer: "Well, all right."  
Manager: "Here's a hammer and nails, you can start right in."

"If you'll give me your number I'll call you up some time."  
"My number is in the phone book."  
"Well, what's your name?"  
"That's in the book, too."

### Berlin Blockade

Is there going to be another complete Soviet blockade of Berlin? The question is receiving much attention as this story is written.

The Russians have been interfering to an increasing extent with trains and trucks going between western Germany and the Soviet zone. If it becomes impossible for the Western nations to get sufficient supplies through to the Germans under their control in Berlin, the airlift, which performed transportation miracles when Berlin was blockaded before, will be put into operation again.

Only time can tell why Russia decided to stir up a new crisis over Berlin. —By DAVID BEILES.

### Answers to Your Vocabulary

- (d) bound to happen; 2 (b) honest; 3. (d) distinguished; 4. (a) courage; 5. (c) isolated; 6. (a) studiously considering; 7. (c) made better; 8. (b) hindered.

## Readers Say—

I believe that the Labor Party of Great Britain will be defeated in the forthcoming elections in that country. The British people are tired of government interference with free enterprise and of the nationalization of so many important industries. Furthermore, the British now see that their economy is in the bad shape that it is because of the policies of the Labor government.

CECIL E. Foss,  
Sheridan, Wyoming

Let's begin writing a peace treaty for Japan at once. Russia apparently does not want to attend a peace conference at which all the nations that fought Japan would be present, but that's because she hopes the Japanese will soon become restless and turn to the Communists for leadership.

From all indications, the people of Japan deserve to receive their freedom as soon as possible. They have cooperated with the occupation and have shown that they no longer harbor thoughts of aggression.

ROSE YELACH,  
Eveleth, Minnesota

Mr. Myer made an interesting comment when, in his reply to Steve Schanuel, he suggested that the issue of world government be debated up and down the land. The national high school debate topic in 1948 was "Resolved, that the UN be revised into a Federal World Government." After 4½ months of discussion on this question, the debating team at Pittsburg High concluded that world government is certainly necessary but well-nigh impossible of achievement.

LETTY LEMON,  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Several weeks ago, our school contributed some money to CARE for the benefit of a needy family in Europe. Since that time, we have learned that a package was sent to a Czech woman who takes care of five children, four of whom are not her own. Because so many people are still in need of help, we plan to make another contribution to CARE in the near future.

JOYCE HEIDEN,  
Heaton, North Dakota



I wonder if many students are aware of the good will that is built up when an American youth writes to pen pals in foreign countries. For the past year, I have been corresponding with boys and girls in Austria, Brazil, England, Finland, Japan and other nations, and I have found them all to be friendly and interesting. Recently, a girl in Finland sent me a hand-woven scarf. In appreciation of her generosity, I have sent her a package of food.

CHARLES JACKSON,  
North Arlington, New Jersey

In the January 2 issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, you published an article which, among other things, told of the continuance of Nazism in Germany. I think that as long as there are people in that country who favor Nazi ideas, our occupation forces should remain there. If they don't, we may have another war.

MAYME WHITEAKER,  
Antigo, Wisconsin

Correspondence from our readers and foreign students may be addressed to Letter Column, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

# Troubled Spain

(Concluded from page 1)

to wealthy landlords. The life of the farm laborer is hard, and many Spaniards believe that it will not become easier until a way is found to give each farmer some land of his own.

Covering an area nearly as large as Arizona and Utah combined, Spain has about 28 million inhabitants. Not many more than half the people are able to read and write.

The nation's most important manufacturing industry is the making of cotton cloth. Operation of textile mills, however, has been hindered by shortages of electric power, and by inability to get sufficient raw cotton from abroad. Sales of Spanish products—including cloth, fruit, and olive oil—to foreign nations are not large enough to pay for all the items—such as grain, cotton, and machinery—that Spain would like to import.

Industrialists in neighboring European countries, like those in Spain, have been plagued by shortages of materials and equipment during recent years. Most of them, though, have been able to get some needed supplies through the European Recovery Program. Spain, on the other hand, is considered an "outcast" by many nations. As a result, she has not been allowed to take part in the ERP, through which her neighbors are strengthening their industries and raising their farm output.

To understand how Spain fell into world disfavor, we must look back several years. In 1931 the inefficient government of King Alfonso XIII was overthrown, and a republic was set up. The new government made various efforts to improve conditions among the farmers and factory workers of Spain, but its friends and critics soon came into bitter conflict. Extremists on both sides fought for their ideas in parliament and often in the streets. There was little willingness to compromise.

Out of the turmoil, a civil war developed; and it lasted from 1936 to 1939. On one side were the government or "Loyalist" forces, who contended that their leaders had been put into office by a free election, and that they were trying to uphold the will



THE SQUARE is the center of activity in this typical Spanish town. Fiestas are held in the square, but all was quiet when this picture was taken.

of the majority. The other side, led by General Francisco Franco, accused the government leaders of being Communists. Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy sent men and supplies to aid Franco, while Soviet Russia assisted the Loyalists.

After General Franco achieved victory, he established a dictatorial government. Thousands of political opponents were imprisoned, and forceful steps were taken to restore order and stability. Spain's government did not take part, officially, in the fighting of World War II, but Franco permitted Spanish volunteers to join German forces on the Russian front.

#### With German Help

Because Franco had risen to power with German and Italian help, Spain had few friends when World War II ended. She was, therefore, excluded from the United Nations. In 1946, moreover, the UN General Assembly recommended that all member governments withdraw their ambassadors and ministers from Spain's capital.

Along with numerous other countries, we have followed the UN recommendation. Our chief representative in Madrid is a chargé d'affaires—of lower rank than an ambassador or minister.

Some nations undoubtedly hoped that UN pressure would weaken Franco and help bring his downfall. Others believed that it would force him to give Spain a more democratic government. However, the plan did not work as either group expected. In fact, the Assembly action seemed to create new support for Franco among the Spanish people.

Last year the General Assembly was asked to revoke its recommendation that member countries send no ambassadors to the Spanish capital. The proposed change was rejected, although it was supported by nearly half of the UN membership. Russia and the other Communist nations vigorously opposed it. The U. S. delegation did not cast any vote on this Spanish issue when the roll was called.

Recently, however, U. S. Secretary of State Acheson announced that our country will this year work for removal of the UN ban against sending ambassadors or ministers to Madrid. Many Americans hope, moreover, that the possibility of U. S. economic aid for Franco will soon be considered.

Here are the arguments of those who approve Secretary Acheson's decision, and advocate a policy of friendship toward Spain:

"Although Franco is a dictator, he is not as dangerous as Hitler and Mussolini were. He is not trying to conquer other nations. Besides, Franco really has helped Spain in many ways. If he had not gained control of the government, it would have fallen into the hands of the Communists."

"There are numerous dictatorships with which we try to maintain friendly relations, so why not cooperate with Franco? By failing to do so we are not helping Spain become democratic. Most Spaniards resent our attitude. As a matter of fact, we are hurting the Spanish people, for they miss out on the benefits of the ERP."

"Although Spain was sympathetic toward the Axis during the last war, she did not make a great deal of trouble for the Allies. She even refused to let the German armies use Spanish territory as a route to Africa."

"Spain would be a valuable ally of the western nations in case they should become involved in war with Russia. Not only would she be able to supply minerals and other products, but she could also provide air bases."

"The towering Pyrenees Mountains, that separate her from all the other

European nations except Portugal, would halt the advance of Russian armies. The western countries could take a stand on Spanish territory."

"We should forget the past. Franco is willing to cooperate with the democracies. We should restore friendly relations with him. If enough people of that country don't like his regime, they can eventually overthrow it."

People who are against having close ties with Spain reply as follows:

"The Spanish dictatorship, under Franco, came into power by the use of force. Franco plunged Spain into a bloody civil war in 1936, and overthrew the government which had been elected by the Spanish people. Since that time he has ruled with an iron hand and has tolerated no opposition."

"If we cooperate with Franco, his government will be strengthened, and there will be no chance for Spain to become a democracy. This will encourage dictatorial leaders in other countries, especially in Latin America where Spanish influence is great."

#### Aided Axis

"During World War II, Spain aided the Axis powers. She sold them supplies and allowed their agents to use Spain as a base from which to spy on the Allied armies. Franco even encouraged Spaniards to go to Germany and enter the fight on the side of Hitler. He cannot be trusted."

"The American government should not seek arrangements for using Spain as a military base in case of European war. Such action would be very discouraging to most other countries of western Europe, because it would seem to indicate that we have little hope of keeping them from being overrun."

"We should continue to show that our nation disapproves of dictatorships such as Franco's. Possibly we did make a big mistake in officially recognizing Soviet Russia, but that is no reason why we should repeat the mistake by establishing full diplomatic relations with Franco's government."

Our nation's future course of action on the Spanish issue depends considerably on what happens when the UN ban against Franco comes up for consideration in the General Assembly later this year. If the majority of nations in the world organization want to establish normal diplomatic relations with Spain, it seems certain that we shall go along with that policy."



SPAIN'S RESOURCES and where they are located

DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

## Science News

The uranium mines of the Belgian Congo are expected to produce twice as much ore this year as they did in 1949. Mines in the Congo already furnish about three-fifths of the world's uranium—not counting what is mined in the Soviet Union. Almost all the valuable mineral mined in Africa's Belgian Congo is shipped to the United States.

★ ★ ★

In the future, airmen stranded in the Arctic will be able to keep warm in a special Arctic hut developed by the Air Force. The shelter is a four-man quonset hut made of a cotton fabric covered with a layer of synthetic rubber. The space between the two layers serves as insulation against the cold. The hut has no frame but is blown up with a hand pump.

★ ★ ★

People who believe they have found a meteorite can check their discovery free of charge with authorities at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. About 25 samples are sent to the Institution each month, but only a few prove to be real meteorites, the scientists say.

Meteorites are much heavier than ordinary rocks and do not have cavities or pores. There are two types—the iron and the stony meteorite. The iron variety is magnetic and is much easier than the other kind to identify.

★ ★ ★

An Arctic weather station—located on top of the Greenland ice-cap—is running smoothly in spite of the fact that the weather is often 85 degrees below zero and winds reach 100 miles an hour. The eight French scientists who man the station, live in the station's snow tunnels—200 miles from the nearest Eskimo.

Four weather reports are broadcast each day. The experts are also making extensive studies of the ice-cap itself. Since the station is 10,000 feet above sea level, many of the supplies needed by the scientists are dropped by planes flying over the area.

—By HAZEL L. ELDREDGE.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY, including Hollywood, is cutting down traffic fatalities

EWING GALLOWAY

### Fact and Opinion from . . .

## Newspapers and Magazines

(The views expressed in this column are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

### "Lives Are Being Saved," editorial comment in the Kansas City Star.

Twenty years ago, Kansas City's rate of traffic fatalities was four times as high as it was last year, in spite of the fact that there were only half as many cars on the street.

One of the important factors in cutting the fatality rate has been the modern system of street lighting that has spread throughout the city. Another is the safety education program conducted by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

But the final answer to all safety programs is on the streets. The person at the wheel and the pedestrian at the crossing are the people who eliminate accidents. Let them make 1950 a record year for safety in Kansas City and in other communities.

### "Drunken Driving," editorial comment in the Los Angeles Times.

Aroused public opinion, extra vigilance by the police, and an uncompromising attitude on the part of judges have helped to reduce traffic fatalities in Los Angeles County. Still, too

many people are losing their lives in traffic accidents.

Not all these tragedies are caused by drinking, but many are. The point is that all such accidents could be avoided. Laws prohibiting drunken driving should be as strong as those against banditry. The public must realize this and demand stringent regulations on the subject.

### "The City That Wouldn't Die," by Joseph Wechsberg, Saturday Evening Post, January 14, 1950.

Three sieges of World War II destroyed 85 per cent of Warsaw, Poland, and killed over half its population. Yet today, the city is rebuilding itself and it jokes about the job. "Foreigners say we are crazy to tackle the impossible," said one Warsaw shopkeeper, "but the city has become holy to us. It has to rise again."

Old landmarks are being rebuilt, but in other respects a new Warsaw is being constructed. Districts are being laid out for industry, government buildings, and the like. Modern residential areas are being formed.

The job is far from complete. Much of it must be done by hand, since the Poles have little equipment.

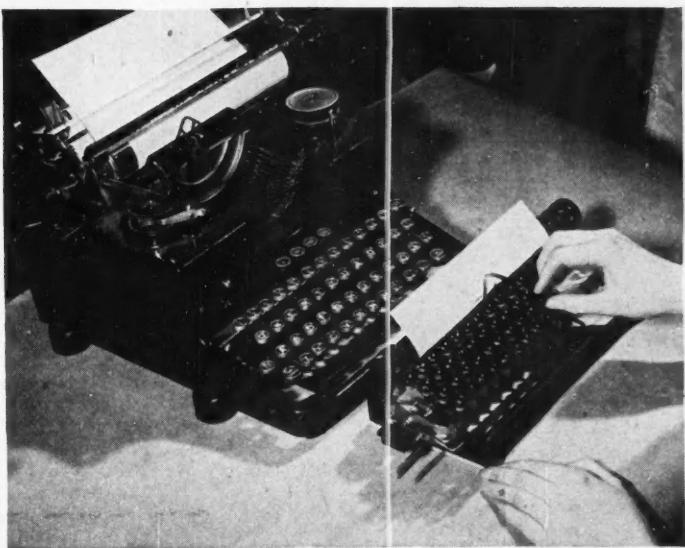
### "Mao Tse-tung As I Know Him," by Edgar Snow, The Reporter, January 3, 1950, page 13.

Mao is not the creator of the Chinese revolution, but its creation. He learned to control the great forces that developed in China and rose with them.

The most important single factor in Mao's rise was his influence with the landless farmers. He came originally from this group and he learned to know the farmers on long trips through China's rural areas.

Mao is a rebel and the world can expect him to be independent in his thinking. He knows that he must keep the support of the Chinese masses, and he has a deep interest in reviving his nation and returning it to its status as a great power. He wants to establish a new society, based on government ownership and control.

Mao has never seen how change can be brought about under a democracy, and he has never studied Russia either. Perhaps he does not understand what the Kremlin will expect of him.



A MIDGET TYPEWRITER, shown in comparison with a big machine. The Zeuzem brothers of Frankfurt, Germany, hope to start producing the midget for sale early this year.

## Study Guide

### Coal Crisis

1. What is the basic cause of the dispute between the United Mine Workers and the coal-mine operators?
2. Describe the use of the three-day work-week in the coal industry during recent months.
3. What two views are held as to the meaning of the action of miners who refused to follow John L. Lewis' "suggestion" that they go back to work?
4. What happens when surpluses of coal appear on the market?
5. Discuss briefly the ways in which coal is being replaced by other fuels.
6. What industries are still important users of coal?
7. Discuss at least one experiment that is being carried on to find new uses for coal.

### Discussion

1. How do you feel that the coal industry can best meet the problems of overproduction and falling consumption? Discuss.
2. On the basis of your present information, do you think the government should take action to keep production of coal at a normal level? Explain.

### Spain

1. Why is Spain now in urgent need of wheat and other grains?
2. Tell of two big difficulties that the Spanish textile industry has been facing.
3. What advantages do most other nations of western Europe have over Spain in dealing with their economic problems?
4. Which foreign nations gave valuable assistance to Franco during the Spanish civil war of the 1930's? What country helped Franco's opponents?
5. By what means has the United Nations sought to show its dislike for Franco's government?
6. Give arguments used by people who believe that our country should become more friendly toward Franco.
7. Present the arguments of those who take the opposite viewpoint.

### Discussion

1. Do you or do you not believe that the United Nations should abandon its stand against Franco? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Do you think Spain should be allowed to receive U. S. economic help in order to improve her industries and agriculture? Explain your position.

### Miscellaneous

1. What is your opinion of the hydrogen bomb? Should we or should we not manufacture such a weapon?
2. Why has Russia recently walked out of meetings of the Security Council and other UN bodies?
3. Explain the controversy over the "price tag" committee that has been set up by the Republican leadership of the House of Representatives.
4. How do western Germany and France feel about the Saar?
5. What was done at the recent meeting of Commonwealth nations in Ceylon?

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"The Need for a National Coal Policy," New Republic, November 28, 1949. One viewpoint of our general coal problem.

"Spain and Portugal—A Dilemma for the West," by Olive Holmes, Foreign Policy Reports, May 1, 1949. A study of the two countries.

"Should We Rearm Spain?" by Ernest K. Lindley, Newsweek, December 5, 1949. Factors involved in the issue.

### Pronunciations

Franco—frāng'kō  
Madrid—muh-drīd'  
Barcelona—bahr'suh-lō-nuh  
charge d'affaires—shahr'zhā dā-fair'

# Career for Tomorrow

## Tool and Die Makers

ACH time a factory wants to put out a new model of its product, or when it wants to change its manufacturing process any other way, it must turn to the men who design and make its tools.

At the top of this group is the tool engineer. He translates the needs of the industry into working plans for a specific tool. Next in line is the tool designer—the person who perfects the engineer's design and draws blueprints for the instrument. Then, there is the tool or die maker, the man who creates the actual tool from metal and fits it into the manufacturing process.

While the tool or die maker ranks third in the process by which new implements are made, he is actually an extremely important worker. His job requires intelligence, mechanical ability, imagination, accuracy, patience, and the ability to use his hands. He is really a highly skilled machinist.

Young men are trained for tool and die work through an apprenticeship. This period of on-the-job training is usually controlled by a contract between the apprentice, a labor union, and an employer. The contract covers the conditions of work, the wage to be paid, and the instruction the apprentice will receive.

The training is very similar to that given a general machinist. It begins with lessons in the names of tools found in a machine shop. Then a

young man goes on to use tools on simple jobs. As he acquires skill he is taught to do more complicated tasks. Meanwhile in classroom study, he learns mathematics, mechanical drawing, the qualities of metals, and other subjects related to his work.

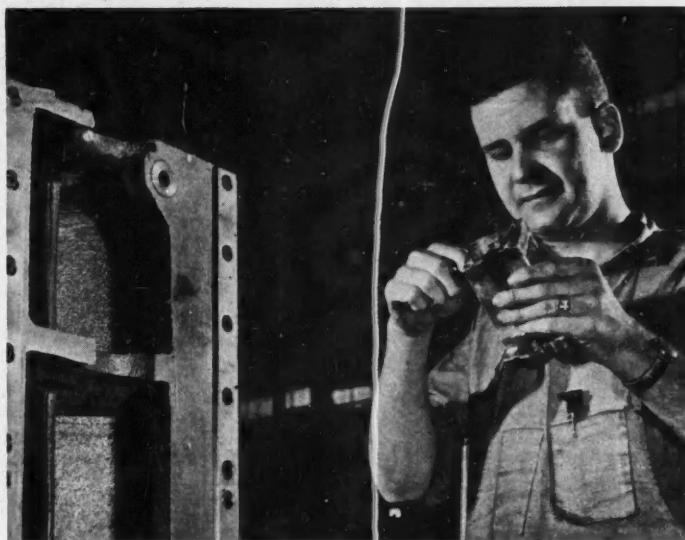
The duties of a toolmaker differ somewhat from those of the die maker. The latter shapes the machinery or dies used for making tools. The toolmaker uses these dies for turning out the finished implements required by industry. Both workers must be extremely accurate, for a very slight error in measurement can ruin an entire job.

It has been said that "there is almost no limit to opportunity for promotion in this field." An experienced tool or die maker may become a tool designer. To qualify for such a position, he must learn the principles of draftsmanship. He can often do this through correspondence courses or at night school.

A person with exceptional ability may go on to become a tool engineer. A college degree in engineering is almost a necessity for one who hopes to reach such a position.

Tool and die makers often open their own machine shops. They do jobs for small and medium-sized industrial plants that do not maintain tool departments.

In addition to having avenues for promotion ahead, men in this field



FORD NEWS BUREAU

### TOOL AND DIE MAKERS must have great skill and lots of patience

are almost assured of steady employment. Even when business conditions are bad and other industrial employees are out of work, there is still a need for tool and die makers.

An apprentice starts at from \$25 to \$30 a week and receives periodic increases throughout his training. Journeyman tool and die makers may earn from \$60 to \$85 a week—from about \$3,000 to \$4,500 a year, though some earn more than these amounts. Tool designers often receive \$6,000 a year. Engineers may earn more.

A discussion of apprenticeship training in general, and an article entitled "Training Tool and Die Mak-

ers at Talon, Inc." can be secured from the Bureau of Apprenticeship, Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C.

A booklet entitled "Machine Shop Occupations," discussing a number of jobs in machine shops, can be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Ask for Department of Labor Bulletin, No. 895, and enclose 20 cents in coin.

The personnel directors of industrial firms' labor union representatives can give information on local programs in this field.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

# Historical Backgrounds - - - Five Centuries of Printing

THROUGHOUT the nation this month, observances have been held to mark the 244th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth and to point to the remarkable work being done in the field of printing. Franklin is often called the "patron saint of American printers." He was himself a printer and he did much to advance this industry as a practical art in the colonies.

Young Franklin spent less than two years in school and at an early age became an apprentice in his older brother's print shop. There he not only mastered the trade, but he also did much of the reading that was later to influence his own writing.

When he was 17, Franklin went to Philadelphia where his skill as a printer helped him to find work. Within 6 years, he had bought the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, which he edited

and printed. The paper was so well done, both as to content and appearance, that it became widely read throughout the colonies.

Printing in Franklin's day might be said to be in its middle era. The movable type and the hand presses then in use were a marked advance over the laborious copying that had first been used to produce books. They were, though, unbelievably slow when compared with the giant presses that today can print hundreds of newspapers per minute.

Long centuries ago, the Chinese developed a primitive means of printing, but there was no real work of the kind in Europe until about the middle of the 15th century. The date usually given for the invention of printing is 1440, and its inventor is said to be Johannes Gutenberg of Mainz, Germany.

Actually there is a dispute as to who first developed movable type and as to who first used a printing press. Both inventions came slowly, and perhaps many individuals contributed ideas to them. Gutenberg, however, is the first person to produce a complete book—the Bible—using movable type and a printing press. Forty-five of the 300 original copies of Gutenberg's Bible are still in existence. They are among the treasured possessions of a few large libraries in different parts of the world.

Before Gutenberg's time, books had been copied by hand, primarily by members of religious orders. Some were artistically done, with colored decorations or "illuminations" on each page. Making books by this method was, of course, exceedingly slow.

Some progress came when men learned to carve words and pictures

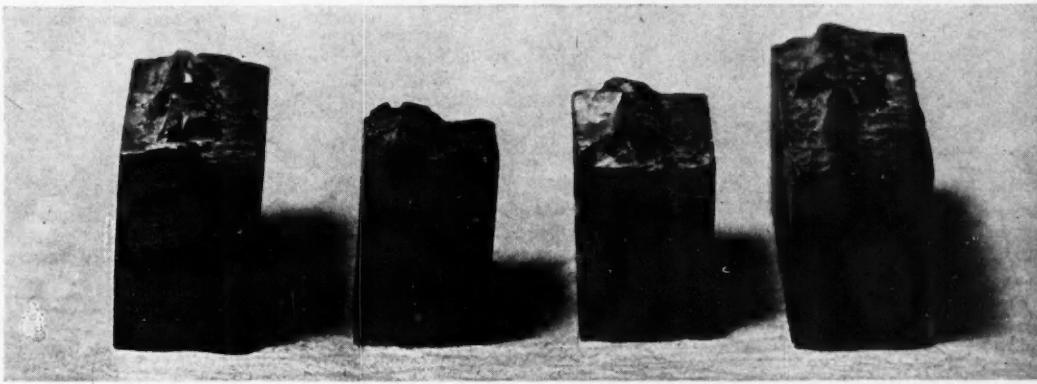
on blocks of wood and to use these for printing on paper or parchment. This method was still a slow one, since a separate block had to be carved for each page.

The introduction of movable type was the next step. It came when someone hit upon the idea of carving the letters of the alphabet on separate pieces of wood or on pieces of metal. These letters were put together to form words, lines, and pages. When the final page had been printed, the letters could be taken apart and used again.

Printing spread quickly after this invention, but there were few changes in the basic processes until after Benjamin Franklin's time. In 1806 Friedrich König, a German, invented a power-driven press using a revolving cylinder rather than a flat plate for printing. In 1822, a typesetting machine was perfected by William Church of Connecticut.

Since that time, these inventions have been improved and new ones have come into general use. Among them are the linotype machine for fast typesetting, made by Ottmar Mergenthaler of Baltimore, and the giant rotary presses that make it possible to get out a daily newspaper of 40 or 50 pages within a very short period. Printing in color has become commonplace.

And the printers tell us there are still new developments to come. Photographic and electronic processes are being adapted to the industry. As the printer looks ahead, his goals are finer, faster, and more accurate printing.



THIS MOVABLE TYPE, found in caves of northwest China, is the oldest known to be in existence